GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4881
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
SOPS NEVER REACH DALITS
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news-item captioned `Rs. 200 crores worth sops never reach Dalits` as reported in the Pioneer dated November 30, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the matter has since been enquired; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the efforts being made to retrieve the funds?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND POWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b),(c)&(d) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard has intimated that theexpenditure on scholarships to Scheduled Castes and Denotified Tribes in the years 1997- 98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 318.44 crores, Rs. 353.94 crores and Rs. 358.69 crores respectively. The State Government took a serious view of the reports of misutilization of scholarship money at various levels and issued repeated instructions to all Commissioners/District Magistrates to enquire into all such cases and take appropriate action against the offenders. As a result of the State level campaign, FIRs have beenlodged against 416 institutions. Instructions have also been issued to the Police Superintendents of the districts to pursue these cases expeditiously. The State Government has further apprised that no decision has yet been taken on the suggestion made by the Deregulation Committee. They have also stated that no study has been conducted by the Committee and hence there is no estimation that the amount involved is Rs. 200 crores.